

**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

LARRY ZHAO  
JEREMY MARTIN  
HARTMUT RUELKE

Confirmation No.: 7303

Examiner: Alexander G. Ghyka

Serial No.: 10/717,122

Group Art Unit: 2812

Filed: November 19, 2003

Att'y Docket: 2000.106900/DE0130

For: DIELECTRIC BARRIER LAYER FOR A  
COPPER METALLIZATION LAYER  
HAVING A VARYING SILICON  
CONCENTRATION ALONG ITS  
THICKNESS

Customer No.: 23720

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated January 13, 2006, for which the three-month date for response was April 13, 2006. A request for a one-month extension of time to respond is included herewith. This one-month extension will bring the due date to May 13, 2006, which is within the six-month statutory period. The Director is authorized to deduct the fee for the one-month extension, and any other any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21, from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2000.106900.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.